

Essays from Students Enrolled in GED Classes 2009

Student #1

Age: 41

Due to many family issues, I moved around a lot. While in the eleventh grade, I made two moves. The old school was very nice to help me with my credits. The new school had courses that did not match my first school. I asked for the new school to please talk with my old school. They said they did not do that and it was up to me to do what I could. The new school counselor also said to me, "I know your kind". This counselor refused to offer any help and told me that I would not pass. I wanted to go back to the old school, but I could not find a stable place to live. I had no parent to fight for me. I wished I had gone to the school board or somebody for help. I just gave up and withdrew.

Student #2

Age: 19

I left school because I thought that the teachers did not treat me fairly. They were nice to me when I had ADHD problems. They sent me to the office that way they did not have to deal with me. What you really need is a staff that cares to teach and not care about the money. One time I got hit by a girl and no one did anything about it.

Student #3

Age: 24

I completed twelve years of school but only received a Certificate of Completion. I was told that I was too stupid to pass the ISTEP. The counselor said that I could take the test and re-take it if necessary. I only took it one time, but then only received the certificate. My mom and dad were not happy. This is why I am taking the GED classes.

Student #4

Age: 43

I left school when I was fifteen years old. I just gave up. I was afraid to ask for help for fear that I would be thought of as stupid. I was very insecure. I am happy that all of my children have graduated from school. Perhaps, we should make it harder for students to drop out. If the laws made it harder for them to quit, maybe there would be a larger success of graduation.

Student #5

Age: 25-30

I became very sick and missed many days. When I returned to school I had so much work to do. I asked my teacher for help and she told me to go back to my seat and figure it out myself. They had a conference. I told them that I needed some extra help. They did not want to give me the help so I left and never looked back. If you want students to stay in school, get them more help when they ask for it.

Student #6

Age: 32

I was supposed to graduate in 1995, but I dropped out in my tenth grade year. I have a hard time understanding and no one was kind enough to help. They just threw me in ED classes or study halls. I loved school, but I just felt like they gave up on me so I gave up on school. I was a state wrestling competitor, baseball player. I had life in a ball and one day it popped. I dropped out at 16, on my own at 17 and a dad at 18 and so on and here I am fifteen years later trying again. It is not fun being a drop out, but when you have been failed you have no choice. I will make it his time. Thanks and good luck in the change.

Student #7

Age: 20

The reason I did not complete high school was because I moved to Georgia. I finished my junior year and senior year I was going half day. At the beginning of my senior year was when I moved. I think the schools and the staff need to learn how to stop favoritism. They seem to pick on certain ones and leave others along. Everyone enrolled should be treated equal. Teachers preach about equal opportunity. Well, they need to practice what they preach.

Student #8

Age: 17

The reason I did not graduate is because I got into three fights at school. The first one was my sophomore year, the second and third one was during my junior year. I did not start these two. I am not going back because the principal told my mom that I would have to miss three days of school. My mom tried to tell the school that there was this girl that was going to start a fight with me, but the principal did not even talk with the girl.

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Student #9

Age: 20

The reason that I quite school was friction between myself and the staff. A lot of my family went through the same school and my last name was singled out. The principal was always accusing me of doing things that I did not do. Instead of talking to me or other people, they just took action and suspended me or expelled me. I believe the stigma put on my last name had a lot to do with it. If they would not have singled me out, then maybe I would have not dropped out. They did not even give me a chance to show who I was. If they would have asked more questions, then I would have graduated.

Student #10

Age: 19

My reason for dropping out is I didn't have enough credits to graduate. Well, that is one of the reasons. The other is when I was a senior I did not know how to do any of the work. I thought there was no reason to stay in school because even the principal said that I would never pass my test or the ISTEP test. So I ain't going to school because of him.

Student #11

Age: 69

One of the reasons I dropped out of high school was because my parents had seven children to support. They could not afford to pay for my class ring. I think a lot of kids drop out because of finances. If the schools were to focus on this and get to know who the child was that has a parent with a financial problem, then the school could help them. Now days, most parents are of the working class, so they don't spend enough time with their kids, so kids think they are being neglected. They get in with the wrong crowd to get the attention that they don't get at home. Teachers and the Principal, if they can try to reach out to a child who seems troubled and is failing behind. They should try and monitor them from time to time.

Student #12

Age: 41

I was a seventeen mother-to-be and going to school where that was frowned upon. My counselor pushed me toward the door. So I feel all staff members at any school should be there to support and help guide, not push away students. There needs to be more compassion for young people. Teachers are over-worked and stressed, but so are the students. I wish someone would have cared enough to help me stay in school for my education and cared less about how things look with pregnant teens going to school.